

Serial No.: 10/657,856

Listing of Claims:

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (amended) ~~The apparatus for locking a plug of claim 2,~~ An apparatus for locking a plug, the apparatus for use with a plug and a plug signal receptacle, the apparatus for locking a plug comprising:
 - a. a plug lock rotatably secured about a first selected point, the plug lock rotates about the first selected point as the plug enters the plug signal receptacle;
 - b. a plug lock spring, the plug lock communicating with the plug lock spring such that the plug lock spring applies force on the plug lock such that the plug lock returns to a neutral position after the plug is fully engaged in the plug signal receptacle;
 - c. a locking release mechanism, the locking release mechanism rotatably secured about a second selected point and wherein the locking release mechanism is also rotatably secure about a third selected point, the locking release mechanism communicates with the plug lock such that when the plug lock rotates about the first selected point the locking release mechanism rotates about the second selected point and the third selected point;
 - d. a plug lock locking mechanism, the plug lock locking mechanism communicates with the locking release mechanism such that when the locking release mechanism rotates about the second selected point and the third selected point the plug lock locking mechanism secures the plug lock in the neutral position, and the plug lock then retains and holds the plug securely in the plug signal receptacle; and
 - e. an electromagnet, the electromagnet electromagnetically communicating with the plug lock locking mechanism such that when the electromagnet is activated the plug lock no longer retains and holds the plug securely in the plug signal receptacle.
4. (cancelled)
5. (amended) ~~The apparatus for locking a plug of claim 4, wherein the locking release mechanism~~ is also An apparatus for locking an audio headphone plug, the apparatus for use with a headphone, a

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

headphone plug, and an audio signal receptacle, the apparatus for locking an audio headphone plug comprising:

a. a plug lock rotatably secured about a first selected axis, the plug lock rotates about the first selected axis as the headphone plug enters the audio signal receptacle;

b. a plug lock spring, the plug lock communicating with the plug lock spring such that the plug lock spring applies force on the plug lock such that the plug lock returns to a neutral position after the headphone plug is fully engaged in the audio signal receptacle, the neutral position being the plug lock is substantially perpendicular to the audio signal receptacle;

c. a locking release mechanism, the locking release mechanism rotatably secured about a second selected axis and rotatably secure about a third selected axis, the locking release mechanism communicates with the plug lock such that when the plug lock rotates about the first selected axis the locking release mechanism rotates about the second selected axis and the third selected axis;

d. a plug lock locking mechanism, the plug lock locking mechanism communicates with the locking release mechanism such that when the locking release mechanism rotates about the second selected axis and the third selected axis the plug lock locking mechanism secures the plug lock in the neutral position, and the plug lock then retains and holds the headphone plug securely in the audio signal receptacle; and

e. an electromagnet, the electromagnet electromagnetically communicating with the plug lock locking mechanism such that when the electromagnet is activated the plug lock no longer retains and holds the headphone plug securely in the audio signal receptacle.

6. (amended) The apparatus for locking a plug of claim 5, wherein the locking release mechanism comprises a plug lock arm, a locking release mechanism arm, a locking release mechanism main member, and a locking release mechanism spring, the plug lock arm and the locking release mechanism arm are pivotally attached to the locking release mechanism main member, the locking release mechanism spring communicating with the locking release mechanism main member and the locking release mechanism arm.

7. (amended) An apparatus for locking an audio headphone plug, the apparatus for use with a headphone, a headphone plug, and an audio signal receptacle, the apparatus for locking an audio headphone plug comprising:

- a. a plug lock rotatably secured about a first selected axis, the plug lock rotates about the first selected axis as the headphone plug enters the audio signal receptacle;
- b. a plug lock spring, the plug lock communicating with the plug lock spring such that the plug lock spring applies force on the plug lock such that the plug lock returns to a neutral position after the headphone plug is fully engaged in the audio signal receptacle, the neutral position being the plug lock is substantially perpendicular to the audio signal receptacle;
- c. a locking release mechanism, the locking release mechanism rotatably secured about a second selected axis and a third selected axis, the locking release mechanism communicates with the plug lock such that when the plug lock rotates about the first selected axis the locking release mechanism rotates about the second selected axis and the third selected axis, the locking release mechanism comprises a plug lock arm, a locking release mechanism arm, a locking release mechanism main member, and a locking release mechanism spring, the plug lock arm and the locking release mechanism arm are pivotally attached to the locking release mechanism main member, the locking release mechanism spring communicating with the locking release mechanism arm; and
- d. a plug lock locking mechanism, the plug lock locking mechanism communicates with the locking release mechanism such that when the locking release mechanism rotates about the second selected axis and the third selected axis the plug lock locking mechanism secures the plug lock in the neutral position, and the plug lock then retains and holds the headphone plug securely in the audio signal receptacle; and
- e. an electromagnet, the electromagnet electromagnetically communicating with the plug lock locking mechanism such that when the electromagnet is activated the plug lock no longer retains and holds the headphone plug securely in the audio signal receptacle.

8. (amended) The apparatus for locking an audio headphone plug of claim 7, wherein the apparatus for locking an audio headphone plug further comprises at least two plug locks, at least two plug lock springs and at least two locking release mechanism[[s]] springs.

9. (original) The apparatus for locking an audio headphone plug of claim 8, wherein the apparatus for locking an audio headphone plug further comprises at least two electromagnets.

10. (amended) The apparatus for locking an audio headphone plug of claim 9, wherein the plug lock locking mechanism comprises of a plug lock locking mechanism spring, the total tensile strength of the locking release mechanism springs equals the tensile strength of plug lock locking mechanism spring[[s]].

11. (amended) The apparatus for locking an audio headphone plug of claim 10, wherein the total tensile strength of the electromagnets is twice that of plug lock locking mechanism spring[[s]].